

A NEW SPECIES OF *RATIBIDA*
(ASTERACEAE, HELIANTHEAE) FROM
NORTHERN COAHUILA, MÉXICO

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ABSTRACT

Ratibida coahuilensis B. Turner from north central México is described as new. It is related to *R. latipalearis* Fisher of western Chihuahua, but can be distinguished by a number of features, including leaf partition, shape and size of segments, vestiture and achenal characters. An illustration is provided.

Richards (1968) monographed the genus *Ratibida*, recognizing six species. Five were known to occur in northern México, several of these extending into the region from more widespread distributions in the United States. Two of these, *R. mexicana* (S. Wats) Sharp and *R. latipalearis* Fisher, are thought to be endemic to western Durango and adjacent Sonora. The present novelty adds a third, quite distinctive, species which is endemic to northern Coahuila, suggesting that the genus has its center of diversity in north central México.

RATIBIDA coahuilensis B. Turner, sp. nov., Fig. 1.

Ratibida latipalearis Fisher simile sed vestimento pilorum patulorum mollium sericeorum 0.5 – 1.0 mm longorum, foliis mid-caulinis plerumque 3 – 5 partitis divisionibus ultimis 1 – 3 cm latis, et achenorum coronis ciliatis ca 0.3 mm elatis differt.

Tap-rooted or rhizomatous (?) perennials, 70 – 100 cm high; stems erect, sparsely branched, striate, densely hirsute with spreading hairs, the roots appearing to be fibrous; basal leaves 12 – 30 cm long, 5 – 9 cm wide, 3 – 5 partite, the petioles 8 – 15 cm long, the divisions ovate, mostly 3 – 7 cm long, 2 – 4 cm wide, soft silky-pubescent on both surfaces; mid-stem leaves like the basal, but smaller; peduncles 15 – 30 cm long, puberulent with spreading hairs; ray florets 8, spreading (not reflexed), the ligules 10 – 20 mm long, 8 – 12 mm wide, yellow, well-endowed with minute, brown, glandular hairs; column of receptacle 25 – 30 mm high, 9 – 11 mm wide, yellow or yellowish; receptacular pales more-or-less quadrangular in outline, completely enfolding the achenes, the apices with tufted white hairs, the resin-gland orbicular or nearly so, 0.5 – 1.0 mm across; disk corollas ca 2 mm long, yellow, the lobes ca 0.5 mm long; style branches with abrupt, tufted, appendages; achenes black, broadly

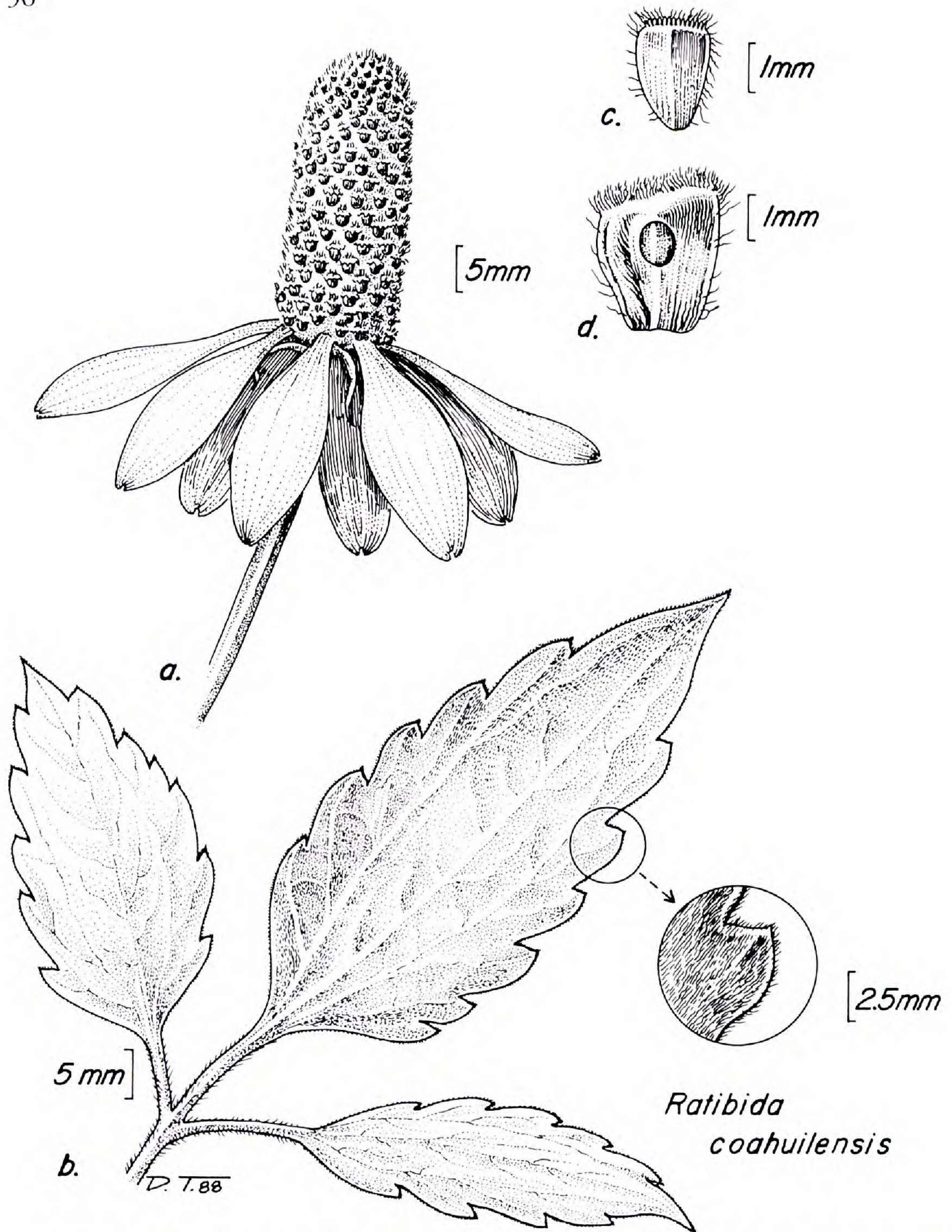


FIG. 1. *Ratibida coahuilensis* (from holotype). a. Head; b. Mid-stem leaf; c. Achene; d. Pale, lateral view.

obovoid, glabrous, 2.5 – 3.0 mm long, 1.7 – 2.0 mm wide, the margins without wings or cilia, the pappus a well-defined ciliate crown ca 0.3 mm high.

TYPE: MÉXICO. COAHUILA: Mpio. Muzquiz, Rincon de Maria (28°27'30"N, 102°04'W), "common perennial in oak woodland in mesic, sheltered, northern exposed portion of saddle at summit of Rincon, ca 2320 m". Reportedly associated with *Quercus gravesii*, *Salvia regla*, etc., 23 Aug 1975, T. Wendt, E. Lott & D. H. Riskind 1290 (HOLOTYPE: LL; ISOTYPE: MEXU).

Additional specimen examined: COAHUILA: Mpio. Muzquiz, "Rancho Agua Dulce. Wooded canyon on the east slope of the Sierra de San Manuel", 28 Jun 1936, Wynd & Mueller 341 (TEX).

The species is superficially similar to *Ratibida latipalearis* Fisher of western Chihuahua but can be distinguished by a number of features, as noted in the Latin diagnosis. Richards (1968) apparently did not examine the Wynd & Mueller collection (cited above), or at least this was not cited or called to the fore in his treatment of the group.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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REFERENCES

RICHARDS, E.L. 1968. A monograph of the genus *Ratibida*. *Rhodora* 70:348 – 392.